





## HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Annual Report on the Health of the District for the

YEAR 1970

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HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1970

P R E F A C E

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of your district for 1970.

Once again the health of the community remains at a very high level. The vital statistics compare favourably with previous years and with those for England and Wales. The infant mortality rate was 6 per thousand related live births, compared with the figure of 10 for 1969. There were no stillbirths last year.

34 cases of Sonné Dysentery were notified in the Parish of Datchworth in February and March, the majority of these occurring amongst children at the Primary School in that village. It is well worth recording this epidemic in greater detail as it proved a classic example of the difficulties a Local Health Authority faces in containing an epidemic of gastro-intestinal disease in a school population. Regrettably information was not received until the epidemic had a firm grip on the school community. The usual measures to promote a high standard of meal and toilet hygiene were then taken and the kitchen staff tested - all with negative results. Children with infection were excluded from school until they produced two negative specimens. The continuing spread of infection, in spite of these measures, suggested a carrier state in the school amongst some children who had received treatment and returned to school.

School closure, with all its inconvenience to parents, children and staff alike, was not considered until a thorough search was made for carriers and treatment carried out. All children who had been absent due to enteritis, whether they had received treatment or not, were therefore excluded and tested. As a result of this, 8 carriers were identified and treated.

The epidemic continued unabated and, therefore, the remaining children and staff who had not been ill, were tested. Finally the epidemic began to wane and the school broke up for the Easter holidays free from infection. In the last week of term a Joint Meeting was held between the School Governors, Representatives of the Parent-Teacher Association, the Headmaster and myself, to review the measures that had been taken. A press release was prepared.



prepared/

Bringing the epidemic under control was an anxious time which called for a prodigious amount of home visiting, for the collection of specimens, by the Deputy Public Health Inspector. To him I am extremely grateful, also to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge who, in all, examined and reported on 198 specimens.

Another epidemic of gastro-intestinal disease in a School occurred on the 30th June at the Hertford Heath County Primary School. This affected 87 children and teachers and canteen staff, following a meal of minced belly of pork patties which had been prepared, allowed to cool outside the refrigerator overnight and then reheated.

The Bacteriological investigations from the patients were negative and no sample of the meal was available for analysis. The causative organism is therefore not known, but the sharp, explosive nature of the epidemic coming on 12 - 14 hours after the food had been taken and rapidly clearing, suggests *Bacillus Welchii* infection.

Improvements to the water supply in the W.C. and kitchen, the ventilation in the food store, and an additional swill bin were recommended and advice given on the preparation and keeping of food to the kitchen staff.

Examination of the Breakdown Analysis of Causes of Death, showed that Cancer of the Lung caused the death of 5 males and 1 female compared with 7 males and 1 female in 1969 - this small improvement is encouraging, but the death of a male in the age group 35 - 44 from this cause is greatly to be regretted. As I reported last year, no-one can be in doubt any longer of the relationship between this disease and cigarette smoking. The need for further propaganda amongst young people, especially school children, remains only too evident. I should report that I have been invited to read a paper on this aspect of smoking control at the 2nd World Conference on Smoking and Health in October next in London.

A reminder of the rural nature of this District is supplied by the fact that 4 cases of Brucellosis in cattle were notified during the year and the farms were visited.

The large number of persons who holiday abroad was made evident by the fact that 99 Statutory Vaccination and Inoculation Certificates were stamped during the year.

Once again I would like to place on record the ready assistance and helpful guidance given to me by the Senior Health Inspector, Mr. H.E. Gilby and the Deputy Health Inspector, Mr. J. Martindale, during the year. I am most grateful to them.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient servant,

P. de Bec Turtle  
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Surg. Capt. P. de Bec Turtle, V.R.D., M.A., B.M.B.Ch.,  
M.R.C.G.P., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H.

DEPUTY (PART-TIME) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Gordon M. Frizelle, T.D., M.D., D.P.H., To 31.10.70  
John V. Earle, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., D.I.H. From 1.11.70

HEALTH INSPECTORS

Senior Health Inspector (and Surveyor)

H.E. GILBY, Hon. F.R.S.H., Hon. F.A.P.H.A., F.A.P.H.I., F.I.P.H.E.,  
Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board.  
Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

Deputy Health Inspector

J. MARTINDALE, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.  
Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board  
Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

Health Department Council Offices, Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford  
Telephone: Hertford 3006 (4 lines)

Clerical duties in the Health Department were carried out by  
Mrs. B. Wilkinson and Mrs. K. Cooper

.....

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Public Health matters were dealt with by the General Purposes Committee, the Chairman of which for the Session 1970/71 was Councillor, Mr. Nigel Bowyer.

Sub-standard housing was dealt with by the Housing Committee, the Chairman of which for the Session 1970/71 was Councillor Mr. F.J.Redman.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS  
(Figures for 1969 are shown in brackets)

(Table 1)

POPULATION

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Hertford Rural District

Registrar General's Estimate	12,010	(11,780)
Total increase	230	

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	31,743
---------------	--------

Number of Occupied Properties according to rate books :-

3,951

Number of properties per acre	..	0.12
Number of persons per acre	..	0.37
Number of persons per house	..	3.03
<u>Rateable value of District</u>	..	£491,772
<u>Sum represented by a Penny Rate</u>	..	£2,025



# SECTION A

## VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1970

(Table 2)

(Figures for 1969 are shown in brackets)

### BIRTHS

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 14.0 (18.0)

Area Comparability Factor for Births 1.06 ( 1.06)

<u>Number of Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	84	75	159
Legitimate	76	71	147
Illegitimate	8	4	12
<u>Number of Still Births</u>	-	-	-

.....

### DEATHS

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population 9.5 (10.2)

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths 1.20 (1.22)

<u>Number of Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	50	45	95
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year</u>	-	1	1
<u>Number of deaths under 4 weeks of age</u>	-	1	1
<u>Number of deaths under 1 week of age</u>	-	1	1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age  
Rate per 1,000 Live Births ... .. 6 (10)

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during 1970 :-

Disease	All Ages	Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 60
Scarlet Fever	3	-	2	1	-	-	-
Measles	11	-	9	1	-	1	-
Sonné Dysentery	34	1	4	24	1	4	-

Incidence of Diseases during the different months :-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>No. of Cases</u>
Measles	February	1
	May	1
	June	2
	July	5
	September	2
Scarlet Fever	June	1
	July	1
	September	1
Sonné Dysentery	February	11
	March	23

Incidence of Diseases amongst the different Parishes during 1970 :-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Disease</u>	<u>No. of Cases</u>
Datchworth	Measles	1
	Sonné Dysentery	34
Little Amwell	Scarlet Fever	1
Tewin	Measles	1
Walkern	Measles	1
Watton-at-Stone	Measles	8
	Scarlet Fever	2

## T U B E R C U L O S I S

The following is a summary of Tuberculosis Notifications etc. during 1970

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After taking into account new cases etc., the year commenced with 48 cases on the Register :-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
<u>Males</u>	24	2
<u>Females</u>	15	6
Inward transfers from other areas :	1	-
Outward transfers from other areas :	-	-
<u>The year ended with 51 cases on the register, viz :</u>		
<u>Males</u>	26	3
<u>Females</u>	16	6

BREAKDOWN ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause of Death	Sex	All Ages	Under 4 wks	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & over
Enteritis & other diarrhoeal diseases.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, Oesophagus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	5	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	2
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	F	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Leukaemia	F	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Diabetes Mellitus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	19	-	-	-	-	3	2	9	5
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	9
Hypertensive Disease	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
	F	12	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	8
Other Diseases of Circulatory System.	M	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bronchitis & Emphysema	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Diseases of Respiration	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Birth Injury, difficult labour etc.	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ill Defined Conditions	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Motor Vehicle accidents	M	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Suicide & Self-Inflicted Injuries	M	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	M	50	-	1	3	2	3	8	16	17
	F	45	1	-	1	-	3	5	10	25

NOTE: No deaths in the  
4 weeks under 1, 1-4 & 5-14 Groups



## SECTION B

The County Council is responsible for the following health and welfare services in respect of which full details may be obtained from the Health and Welfare Department, County Hall, Hertford. Telephone No. Hertford 4242.

A.

### HEALTH SERVICES

#### Clinics which serve Hertford Rural District

##### Health Centre, Bull Plain, Hertford

Infant Welfare

General Clinic for Schoolchildren

Dental and Orthodontic

Wednesday 1.45 - 4.00 p.m.

3rd Monday a.m. in each month.

By appointment (Tel: on

Monday 9.30 - 12.30

(Hertford 3259)

All day Friday.

Thursday 4.00 p.m.

Application to Health Centre,

Bull Plain, Hertford.

Speech Therapy

Relaxation Classes - Mothercare.

##### Sele Farm Clinic, Hollybush School, Hertford

Infant Welfare

Fridays 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

Transport is available from Waterford and Bramfield areas, Telephone Hertford 3711.

##### Bengeo Infants School - Health Annexe (Hertford 5806)

Infant Welfare

Tuesdays 10.00 - 12.00 noon.

##### Village Hall, Hertford Heath

Infant Welfare

1st and 3rd Tuesdays

2.30 - 4.00 p.m.

##### Memorial Hall, Watton-at-Stone

Infant Welfare

2nd and 4th Wednesdays

2.30 - 4.00 p.m.

##### Village Hall, Datchworth

Infant Welfare

1st Tuesday 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

##### Parochial Hall, Benington

Infant Welfare

3rd Wednesday, 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.

##### Village Hall, Tewin

Infant Welfare

2nd Monday 2.30 - 4.00 p.m.

##### Church Hall, Walkern

Infant Welfare

1st Thursday, 2.30 - 4.00 p.m.



A Family Planning Clinic is held at the Health Centre, Bowling Road, Ware, on Monday and Thursday evenings - 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.

Immunisation and Vaccination

All parents are advised to take advantage of this service which can be obtained from their family doctors or at any of the Infant Welfare Centres mentioned.

The following table gives the latest recommendations of the County Medical Officer :-

6 months	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. POLIOMYELITIS (ORAL)
8 months	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. POLIOMYELITIS (ORAL)
13 months	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. POLIOMYELITIS (ORAL)
15 months	MEASLES
16 months	SMALLPOX
School entry	POLIOMYELITIS (ORAL)
School entry	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus
School entry	SMALLPOX re-vaccination (one month after other booster)

Care and After-Care

Equipment can be issued on loan to patients being nursed at home. A Medical Loan Department has been established at the British Red Cross Society, Baker Street. Helpers are present for distribution of equipment on Mondays to Fridays at 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Monday evenings 6 - 9 p.m. - Return of equipment only.

A Cytology Clinic

Is held at the Clinic, Bull Plain, Hertford on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday for all women. Telephone Hertford 3597 - Also 3rd Wednesday of every third month.

Treatment for V.D.

Is available at the following centres :-

Bishop's Stortford

Herts & Essex General Hospital - Tuesday 9.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.  
(Males and Females)

Hitchin

Lister Hospital

Tuesday 1.00 p.m.  
(Males and Females)

St. Albans

St. Albans City Hospital Tuesday 4.00 p.m. and Thursday 12.30 p.m.  
(Males and Females)

Watford

Shrodells Hospital

Monday and Wednesday 4 - 6.00 p.m.  
(Saturday 10 a.m. - 12 noon.  
Males and Females)

B

SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

(i) Homes for Old People

Application for admission to the County Council's Homes for old people needing care and attention should be addressed to The Divisional Social Services Officer, Social Works Unit, Westfield, West Street, Hertford (Telephone 3145).

(ii) Home Help

Application for this service should be made to the Home Help Organiser, Health Centre, Bull Plain, Hertford (telephone 3232), office hours - 8.45 to 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. Charges vary according to financial circumstances; applicants being assessed in accordance with the County Council's assessment scale.

(iii) Chiropody Service

This service is confined to the elderly (males aged sixty-five years and over; females aged sixty years and over), the physically handicapped (those substantially and permanently handicapped) and the expectant mother. Such persons must also either be in receipt of supplementary benefit from the Department of Health and Social Security, or be in similar financial circumstances. Application forms are obtainable from chiropodists, general practitioners, members of the County nursing staff and social work staff, and other persons connected with the care of the elderly and the physically handicapped. Applications should be submitted to the County Medical Officer. Eligible persons receive treatment without charge.

(iv) Old People's Welfare

There are several social clubs for the elderly in the district - The Hertford Evergreen Club is held in Bircherley Street on Monday and Friday afternoons from 3 - 6 p.m. The Parishes of Datchworth, Hertford Heath and Watton-at-Stone also have their old people's social clubs.

The Secretary of the Hertfordshire Old People's Welfare Council, the Old Forge, Sawbridgeworth (Tel: 3278) will be pleased to furnish details of other clubs in the rural district.

(v) Meals on Wheels

At present hot meals are served in the Benington and Watton areas, there are organisers also at Aston and Cole Green, which can operate when the need arises. Enquiries should be made to Mrs. Sewell, W.R.V.S., County Meals Organiser, Baker Street, Hertford (Tel: 3670).

(vi) Welfare Service for the General Classes of the Handicapped and the Deaf

Advice on the services available for the deaf and those persons who are permanently and substantially handicapped is obtainable from the Divisional Social Services Officer, Social Work Unit, Westfield, West Street, Hertford (Tel: 3145).

(vii) Welfare Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted

Information on this service may be had from the Welfare Officer for the Blind, 2 The Wash, Hertford (Tel: 3201).

(viii) Mental Health

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner are made by a Social Worker, Social Work Unit, Westfield, West Street, Hertford (Tel: 3145).

Help for Mentally Sub-Normal persons can be obtained by application to the Director of Social Services.

The Training Centre is run daily - Monday to Friday - at Geddings, Pindar Road, off Essex Road, Hoddesdon for males and females and is closed only for a week at Christmas and Whitsun and two weeks in midsummer.



## S E C T I O N   C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### REPORT OF THE SENIOR HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1970

##### INTRODUCTION

During 1970, the usual steady progress was maintained in improving the standard of environmental hygiene for all parts of the area.

During the second half of 1969, the new housing legislation dealing with, amongst other matters, the improvement of dwellings, came into operation. It was anticipated that due to this new legislation, more time would need to be spent in dealing with improvement grant applications; this however, has not so far proved to be the case.

The last major sewerage scheme for the area, that of providing main drainage to the Parish of Sacombe, was commenced, and by the end of the year was well advanced.

Details of some of the work of the Health Department will be found under their respective headings and also in the Table showing the Development of Undertakings and Services for the District.

##### WATER SUPPLIES

There are two Water Undertakings supplying water to the area, the Lee Valley Water Co. and the Metropolitan Water Board, the latter distributes water to the Parish of Little Amwell only.

In addition, there are numerous private wells providing water for both domestic, agricultural and trade purposes.

The water supplied by the water undertakings is satisfactory in both quantity and quality. The following information extracted from their respective Reports indicate the number and type of samples examined during the year :-

	<u>Chemical</u> <u>Samples</u>	<u>Bacteriological</u> <u>Samples</u>
Metropolitan Water Board	4	254
Lee Valley Water Co.	<u>12</u>	<u>398</u>
	16	652

During the year there was some concern with the quality of the private supply to a mineral water factory when one of the routine samples was found to be contaminated. An investigation was made and though the deep well water proved to be satisfactory, the contamination was found to have occurred in the storage tank. Fortunately the firm in question had two storage tanks of a large capacity and the offending one was immediately taken out of service.

During the year fourteen samples of this water were submitted for bacteriological examination.

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year the last major sewerage scheme, i.e. in the Parish of Sacombe was commenced and is still in progress at the time of writing this Report; the deduction in the number of cesspools will therefore, not be so noticeable as in previous years, but it is anticipated that on the completion of this Scheme, together with the connection of all available houses in the parish, a further 60 properties should enjoy this facility.

There were 9 cesspools or septic tanks abolished during the year, the drainage from the properties being connected to the main sewer. Only one pail closet was abolished and a proper drainage system provided in lieu thereof. Financial assistance was provided in this case under Section 47 of the Public Health Act 1936.

The following Table indicates the percentage of dwellings in each Parish connected to main drainage, as at December 1970 :-

Parish	No. of Houses	Houses connected in current year	Total Houses connected	Percentage
ASTON	244	5	189	76.6%
BAYFORD	153	-	103	67.3%
BENGEO RURAL	162	4	132	81.4%
BENINGTON	267	6	246	92.1%
BRAMFIELD	92	-	76	82.6%
BRICKENDON	179	19	82	45.7%
DATCHWORTH	529	18	485	91.6%
HERTINGFORDBURY	249	2	212	85.1%
LITTLE AMWELL	445	-	419	94.1%
LITTLE BERKHAMSTED	184	-	75	40.7%
SACOMBE	77	-	-	-
STAPLEFORD	219	1	198	90.4%
TEWIN	445	7	371	83.3%
WALKERN	336	8	265	78.8%
WATTON-AT-STONE	574	61	527	91.8%

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

In the Parishes of Bengoe Rural, Bramfield, Brickendon and Little Berkhamsted, though parts of each of these Parishes are served by main drainage, the sewage is treated at small disposal works, the final effluent being discharged to a ditch or disposed of by land irrigation.



These works are subject to routine inspections and maintenance and the effluent produced is, from time to time, tested with a field testing outfit. All samples came up to Royal Commission standard. A total of 6 samples were tested in this manner during the year and all were found satisfactory.

#### SEWAGE PUMPING STATIONS

In those parts of the district where the main sewers cannot discharge into the trunk sewers by gravitation, pumping stations are provided.

At present there are 9 stations serving 6 Parishes and on the completion of the Sacombe sewerage scheme, a further two will be added to this total.

Visits are made three times a week by the maintenance staff to all the stations and apart from minor electrical trouble, no serious difficulties with the plant occurred during the year.

In the Parish of Datchworth the lower part of Datchworth Green is served by a pumping station which was first commissioned in 1956 and due to the growth of the Parish it is necessary to review the existing system for this area as the present plant was increasingly being worked to its maximum capacity over short periods.

Arrangements have been made with a neighbouring authority to accept the sewage from this portion of Datchworth Green and it is anticipated that during 1971 the Datchworth Green Pumping station will be dismantled.

There were 595 visits made by the officers of the department dealing with all matters concerning sewage disposal for the area.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION

This service continues to operate satisfactorily and it was decided that preparatory to investigating the plastic sack system of refuse collection all new council dwellings should be provided with this method of refuse storage. In each case the dwelling is provided with a fully guarded galvanised sack holder.

It was decided that when time was available the possibility of inaugurating a pilot scheme for the sack system of refuse storage should be investigated and the Parish of Bramfield which has approximately 92 houses was chosen for this purpose.

With the advent of the Transport Act it has now become necessary to bring into force a proper system of maintenance and inspection for all refuse and other vehicles, in order to comply with the Requirements of

this Act and it is hoped that when this system is fully functional it will reduce some of the mechanical problems which have occurred with the vehicles during the period under review.

### BULKY REFUSE COLLECTION

The Council's policy of providing a free service for the disposal of the more bulky type of domestic refuse continues to operate smoothly. During the year 240 applications were received for this service and as some of these requests could not be classed as "domestic" nominal charges were made, i.e. 30 such applications produced a revenue of £46.

In common with other authorities this district suffers from the indiscriminate dumping of all types of unwanted items such as mattresses, bedsteads etc. etc. and in reviewing the whole of the area the state of the hedgerows, spinneys etc., it can be said that there was a slight improvement.

Various complaints about dumping were received from civic minded ratepayers and in certain instances the rubbish contained postcards and letters bearing names and addresses. Such samples of rubbish were presented to the police authorities for investigation and reports. These however, would not support a prosecution under the Civic Amenities Act 1967.

### TRADE REFUSE

There is no recognised system of collection of trade refuse within this area as the majority of trade premises, especially shops etc. are attached to dwellings and the council considers that it would not be economical to institute a charge for the collection of trade refuse. This refuse is collected during the normal refuse collection round.

However, there are 3 premises in the area who produce a large quantity of refuse which cannot be accommodated during the normal collection and for these premises a special service is provided and a charge instituted. The amount of revenue received for this service amounted to £271 during the year.

### ABANDONED VEHICLES

During the year a total of 10 vehicles which were found abandoned in various parts of the district, were removed by a private contractor for destruction. In addition, the assistance of the local authority was sought to dispose of a further 13 unwanted vehicles from private dwellings. The total cost of removing all these vehicles amounted to £26 and a sum of £16 was recovered.

A total of 127 visits were made for all purposes of this Act during the year.

## DEVELOPMENT OF UNDERTAKINGS AND SERVICES

The following Table indicates the growth of the District and the increase in the demand for the Council's services :-

SERVICE	31st March 1952 being Datum	30th Sept. 1970	
	Number	Number	Datum
Estimated Population	8,600	12,986	150.93
Houses in District	2,562	4,122	160.88
<u>SEWERAGE</u>			
Houses Connected	980	3,344	341.22
Staff Engaged	4.18	3.99	95.45
<u>CESSPOOL EMPTYING</u>			
Houses with cesspools	1,155	665	57.57
Loads of Sewage Removed	1,648	908	55.09
Staff Engaged	2.4	2.1	87.5
<u>REFUSE COLLECTION</u>			
(including bulky refuse)	1,276	4,116	161.28
Houses served (adjusted to weekly collection)	(2,552 fortnightly)		
Staff Engaged	3.27	8.08	277.67



# SUMMARY OF VISITS BY THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

DURING THE YEAR 1970

<u>Factories Act</u> .....	14
<u>Food and Drugs Act</u>	
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Complaints .....	63
Infectious Diseases .....	414
Refuse Collection .....	76
Sewerage Control .....	399
Water Supplies .....	19
Closet Conversion (including revisits) .....	1
Rodent Control .....	1
Civic Amenities Act .....	125
Building Regulations (Drainage Connections) etc. ....	65
Miscellaneous, including office interviews .....	200

## Food and Drugs Act

Details of registration and licences in force and further particulars concerning food premises are as follows :-

### Ice Cream Premises

There are 31 premises registered for the sale of ice cream. No manufacturing of this article takes place in the area.

### Preserved Food

(a) Sausage Manufacture .....	2
(b) Other preserved food manufacturers .....	1

### Food Premises by Type of Business

Bakery with shops .....	2
Butcher .....	2
Cafe .....	2
Greengrocery .....	1
Grocery and General .....	22
Confectioner .....	2
Canteens, including school canteens .....	21
Public Houses .....	34
Mineral Water Factory .....	1
Cold Store (Salmon Processing) .....	1

## FOOD PREMISES

The various food premises in the area were visited from time to time during the year, in order to ensure that current Regulations were being adhered to; the standard of hygiene in all premises was found to be satisfactory.

A total of 4 complaints were received concerning food or food containers and the following is the result of investigations made :-

## FOREIGN OBJECTS

A bag of crisps purchased at a social club was found to contain a piece of metal. This was later identified as a securing pin from a link arm on a packaging machine.

A "Gala" pork-pie purchased by a school canteen, on being sliced for a school meal, was found to contain a wire staple used on a label to identify the meat prior to processing.

In both these cases, after receiving explanatory letters from the manufacturers concerned, no further action was taken. In the latter case, credit was made to the purchaser.

A complaint was received regarding a mouldy meat pie purchased from a local public house. The result of the investigation showed that the pie was manufactured outside the area and delivered unwrapped to the place of sale. As no delivery tickets or invoices were available, it was considered the pie was over a week old.

The final complaint was the proverbial foil cap in a milk bottle and as this was the first complaint, no legal action was taken.



## HOUSING ACTS

Housing improvements still account for a considerable portion of the time spent by the responsible officer in dealing with environmental health matters in the area.

Though the applications for improvement grants still continue to be received at a steady pace, it is interesting to compare this year's statistical information with that of the previous year. Whereas the majority of applications for grants in 1969 were for Standard Grants; (11 Standard and 5 Discretionary) the reverse is the case for 1970 - 13 Discretionary and only 4 Standard Grant applications.

There were 7 Discretionary Grants completed during the year and the approved expenses amounted to £11,894; the amount of grant money paid in respect of these completions was £4,665.

A total of 8 Standard Grants were also completed, these included the work of providing only a single amenity in some cases, to the construction of a new bathroom. The amount of approved expenses in respect of these completed works as per builders' estimates was £4,046. The total sum paid to the applicants amounted to £1,820.

## SUBSTANDARD PROPERTY

The following Table indicates the progress with the demolition of unfit property.

Demolition Orders made	... NIL
Demolition Orders complied with	... NIL
Houses demolished by agreement	... 4
Undertakings accepted for repair	... NIL
(Section 16)	

The total number of visits made for the purpose of action under The Housing Acts, including improvement grant work was 220.

## HOUSING PROGRESS

The following Table shows the progress which has been made with new housing (as specified in the Housing Consolidated Regulations)

	<u>During 1970</u>	<u>Since 1945</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE</u>			
New dwellings erected	108	1115	1223
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	Nil	43	43
<u>BY LOCAL AUTHORITY</u>			
New dwellings erected	29	974	1003
<u>BY OTHER AUTHORITIES</u>			
(County Council, Police, Forestry Commission etc.)	Nil	9	9
<u>TOTAL PROPERTIES CONTROLLED</u>			
<u>BY LOCAL AUTHORITY</u>			
Council Houses	1244	-	1244

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

The number of complaints received during the year amounted to 63. This is a decrease of 5 over the previous year. All complaints were investigated and dealt with by informal action and in only one instance was a Statutory Notice issued under The Public Health Act 1936 for one complaint to be remedied.

With the completion of the main sewerage schemes the work of having properties connected naturally decreased although every effort was made to encourage owners who have not yet availed themselves of this facility to do so.

During the year there were 9 houses whose cesspool drainage was abolished and connected to the main drainage system. In one instance the Council used their powers under Section 275 of the Public Health Act 1936 to carry out certain drainage work on behalf of an owner and at the same time permitted her to repay the cost of such work over a given period, as allowed for by Section 291 of the Public Health Act 1936.

As there are several properties outstanding which are not yet connected to the sewer it may be that more use could be made of these two sections of the Act.

In a single instance Section 47 of the Public Health Act 1936 was invoked - substituting a water closet in lieu of a pail closet. There are now 38 pail closets left in the area.

At the beginning of the year the Deputy Health Inspector spent a considerable portion of one month investigating a serious outbreak of sonné dysentery at one of the local schools; in all there were 414 visits made but more detailed information on the subject will be found in the Medical Officer's section of this Report.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

The work of pest control is still carried out under contract by Messrs. Rentokil Limited and from the figures collated from their quarterly reports and detailed below, it will be seen that there has been a reduction in the number of complaints received and properties inspected.

Owing to the large number of wasp nests destroyed in 1969, the contractors found that they had to revise the terms of their contract with this Authority insofar that they have had to cancel the work of destroying these nests. It was agreed that this work would be carried out on payment of a fixed sum.

PREMISES	Number of Premises		Type of Infestation			
	Inspected	Serviced	Rats	Mice	Insects	Wasps Nests
L.A. Premises	40	40	40	-	-	-
Council Dwellings	44	32	59	23	-	-
Private Dwellings	21	13	8	5	-	-
Agricultural Premises	12	12	12	-	-	-
Business Premises	36	28	28	-	-	-



## OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

### ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACT 1970

In presenting this short narrative report on the administration of the Act for 1970, it is noticeable that in this rural district, with a relatively small number of registered premises, the time spent on inspections and the number of contraventions remedied remains fairly constant from year to year.

The year commenced with 30 premises on the Register and after allowing for the transfer of one business to H.M. Factory Inspectorate and the registration of one new additional office premises, the total number of registered premises remained the same at the end of the year.

A total of 35 inspections were made to registered premises and all but two of these premises received at least one inspection during the year.

The results of these inspections, comments and contraventions are as follows :-

#### CLEANLINESS

In all premises the standard of cleanliness was satisfactory. One registered premises was decorated without issuing any formal notice.

#### OVERCROWDING

There were no cases of overcrowding.

#### TEMPERATURE & VENTILATION

Heating facilities and temperature control were adequate. There were no problems with ventilation.

#### LIGHTING

In one instance an additional window was provided in a store room to improve natural lighting otherwise the standard of lighting was found to be adequate.

#### SANITARY CONVENIENCES

The provision and condition of the sanitary conveniences and the fittings were found to be satisfactory in all premises visited.

#### WASHING FACILITIES

In one registered premises (catering establishment) an additional wash-hand basin was provided in the kitchen.



#### FIRST AID

It was necessary to serve an informal notice for the provision of first-aid facilities in one instance.

#### DANGEROUS MACHINERY

During the year three informal notices to guard machinery were complied with. All three were in relation to the circular bacon slicing machine.

#### NOTIFICATION OF ACCIDENTS

No notification of accidents was received during the year.

#### INFORMATION TO EMPLOYEES

One Notice was issued to provide an Abstract of the Act and one Notice complied with.

#### GENERAL

Various other works of repair were completed in registered premises such as floor and wall repairs, new sinks etc., some of which were carried out by verbal instruction and some by informal notice.

In reviewing the year's work in general, it is noticeable that there have been no complaints received from employees concerning any of the health and welfare provisions and also, since the commencement of the Act, there has been no notification of accidents.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	14	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	28	14	-	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted  (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	to HM Inspector (4)	by HM Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

No defect was found but the Table above is reproduced to comply with  
Statutory requirements.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORKERS

(Sections 133 & 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134	
	No. of out-workers in August List Required by Section (133(1)(e)	No. of Cases of default in sending Lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply Lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served and/or Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6) (7)
Basket Making	-	-	-	-	- -
Wearing) Making apparel) etc., Cleaning and Washing	6	-	-	-	- -
Artificial flowers	-	-	-	-	- -
Making of false eyelashes	6	-	-	-	- -
TOTAL	12	-	-	-	- -

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks to Mr. J. Martindale and Mrs. K. Cooper for the efficient discharge of their duties during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant

Horace E. Gilby  
Senior Health Inspector

Wallfields,  
Hertford 9/8/71





